



NEWS

For Release: March 28, 2013

Contact: Hope Gruzlovic (609) 984-2504

SADC to Hold Open Houses for Farm Owners Interested in Farmland Preservation

With new funding available for farmland preservation, the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), in cooperation with participating county agriculture development boards, will hold a series of regional farmland preservation open houses, Agriculture Secretary Douglas H. Fisher announced today. The open houses are for farm owners potentially interested in preserving their land as well as for owners of already preserved farms who have questions about farmland preservation deed restrictions or other post-preservation issues.

“These open houses are intended to make it convenient for landowners to obtain the information they need, whether they’re interested in preserving their land or they own an already preserved farm and have questions about certain uses,” said Secretary Fisher.

The SADC is seeking new applications under its State Acquisition Program. Under this program, the SADC works directly with landowners to preserve strategically located farms across the state that meet or exceed the county average in size and quality. The SADC also provides cost-sharing grants to county agriculture development boards, municipalities and nonprofit organizations to assist them in preserving farmland.

The open houses will be held at the following times and locations:

Southern Region

4:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 11

Cumberland County 4-H Center, 291 Morton Avenue, Millville

Central Region

4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 24

Monmouth County Hall of Records Annex – Division of Planning (2nd Floor)

One East Main Street, Freehold

4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 2

Chesterfield Firehouse

296 Bordentown-Chesterfield Road, Chesterfield

-- more --

Northern Region

4 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 22
Warren County Department of Land Preservation
500 Mt. Pisgah Avenue, Oxford

4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 1
Morris County Cultural Center
300 Mendham Road, Morristown

The open houses will feature brief presentations at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to explain farmland preservation program options, the application process and farmland preservation deed restrictions. Open question-and-answer sessions will follow. SADC staff and in many cases county agriculture development board staff will be available throughout the entire open houses to provide information, speak with landowners one-on-one and answer questions.

Farm owners unable to attend an open house may obtain more information by contacting the SADC at (609) 984-2504.

The SADC administers New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program. To date, more than 2,100 farms covering more than 201,000 acres have been preserved statewide.

#